



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Administration

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990
web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

Media Advisory
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Media Contact: Raquel Filmanowicz
414-286-3175 (Office)
414-397-1614 (Cell)

Public Health News Alert: Confirmed Measles case in City of Milwaukee

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has received a report of a second case of confirmed measles within Milwaukee County. The most recently reported case involves an adult City of Milwaukee resident whose onset of illness pre-dates the previous pediatric case in Franklin. Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that is spread through airborne droplets. Measles outbreaks pose a significant challenge for public health authorities given rapid transmission through asymptomatic individuals along with persons that have not been immunized. The disease is vaccine preventable requiring two doses of MMR vaccine generally administered during early childhood. Immunity is acquired through vaccination or previous measles infection.

The MHD is conducting an epidemiologic investigation including identification of potential contacts that may have been exposed to the case during the infectious period. This investigation will include isolation of individuals with symptoms consistent with measles infection as well as quarantine of exposed individuals. The MHD will assess the immunization status of all reported suspect cases and contacts to confirmed cases of measles prior to these actions occurring.

The MHD will update its website as additional information is forthcoming (www.milwaukee.gov/health) and has activated an automated public telephone hotline at 414-286-3616.